

**Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee April 25, 2012
McCarran International Airport**

Attending

Perri Benemelis	Vikki Dee Bradshaw	Linda Carbone	Katie Cherry
Chuck Cullom	Debby Emler	Evelyn Erlandsen	Lesley Fitzpatrick
Mike Gazda	Jayne Harkins	Christopher Harris	Kirk Koch
Bill Lamb	Terry Murphy	Judi Nielsen	Wade Noble
Theresa Olson	Sharon Opfermann	David Palumbo	McClain Peterson
Tom Pradetto	Sara Price	Larry Purcell	Dana Sedig
Terry Sue Rossi	Ed Smith	John Swett	Jason Thiriot
Sean Torpey	Mark VanVlack	Laura Vecerina	Eric Volkman Doyle
Wilson			

Attending Via Conference Call

Chuck Paradzick	Grant Buma	Gordon Olson	Laura Simonek
Skip Whitley	Fred Worthley	Tom Dougherty	David Vigil

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Chris Harris. There were self-introductions of all attending.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 26, 2011 Meeting Notes

The October 26, 2011 meeting notes were approved. (Moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Vikki Dee Bradshaw, and approved by consensus.)

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chris Harris was elected as Chair. (Moved by Katie Cherry, seconded by Jason Thiriot, and approved by consensus.)

Perri Benemelis was elected as Vice-Chair. (Moved by Katie Cherry, seconded by Jason Thiriot, and approved by consensus.)

2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET

Remedial Measures Fund

PDD 12-001 – John Swett reviewed the Program Decision Document to establish state remedial measure fund accounts. The Habitat Conservation Plan requires the set aside of contingency funds to pay for implementing remedial measures in the event that changed circumstances affect program conservation measures. The amount of funding for the fund is set forth in Table 7-1 of the HCP, totaling \$13,270,000 (2003 dollars) to be paid from Year 6 through Year 25 of the program. (Moved by Perri Benemelis, seconded by Chuck Cullom and approved by consensus)

FY12 Work Task H2 – To fund the Remedial Measures Fund, John Swett proposed adding a new work task to the FY12 Work Plan. The work task would provide funding for the FY11 and FY12 requirements for the fund. Chuck Cullom requested an amendment to insert the words: “an amount equivalent to” in front of each dollar amount in proposed FY12 activities. (Moved by Perri Benemelis with recommended change, seconded by Vikki Dee Bradshaw, and adopted by consensus.)

Note: At the May 9 & 10 Work Group meeting a decision was made to not fund the remedial measures fund in FY12, but rather to wait until FY13 and fund the first three years.

Land and Water Fund

Resolution 12-003 – John Swett reviewed the need for the establishment of a land and water fund. He noted that such a fund would provide flexibility in the planning and implementing of land and water acquisitions. Given the short term nature of the funding in this type of account, a decision was made that Reclamation establish the fund. John indicated that the amount of dollars contributed to the fund would correspond to the amount of funding in the land and water line items in Table 7-1 of the HCP. A question was asked about tracking of the funds. John indicated that the annual work plan would have a section identifying how much funding had been put in the account and how much had been used. (Moved by Fred Worthley, seconded by Doyle Wilson, and adopted by consensus.)

Habitat Maintenance Fund Process

Resolution 12-004 – John Swett reviewed the process developed to fund projects under the Habitat Maintenance Fund. He noted that a draft had been distributed at the work group

meeting in March and comments had been incorporated. A question was asked about who made the selections. John indicated that it would be Reclamation, with input from the Fish and Wildlife service. (Moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Doyle Wilson, and adopted by consensus.)

FY11 Accomplishments – John reviewed FY11 accomplishments. He noted that the Steering Committee had approved funding in FY11 of \$33,674,938 and obligations for the year were \$23,969,176.43. He explained that funding had been programmed to secure the land and water at Planet Ranch, and that did not occur. Presentations were given by Terry Murphy on Restoration, Theresa Olson on Riparian Research and Monitoring, and Eric Volkman on the Fish Augmentation and Research and Monitoring. The power point for these presentations will be posted to the website.

Program and Financial Status - John Swett indicated that all FY12 contributions have been received to date. He reviewed current FY12 program accomplishment and noted that obligations through May were approximately 50%. John reviewed preliminary program costs for FY13. He noted that these figures were based on a preliminary inflation index and that these numbers could change once the final was received.

Draft FY2013 Work Plan and Budget – John Swett noted that the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2011 Accomplishment had been posted to the website. He indicated that written comments were due to Reclamation by May 4, and that the work group meeting was scheduled for May 9 and 10. He said that the final work plan would be posted on June 20.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

John Swett provided an update on two projects. On the status of AMM2, he indicated that the FWS had provided a revised letter which clarified the funding commitment of \$2.5 million for AMM2. The FWS indicated that they had agreed that a portion of this funding would be used to complete construction of the project and that the remaining funds would be used to pay for electrical bills for pump operations until the funding was exhausted. The FWS indicated that this would complete the LCR MSCP's commitment for AMM2.

John indicated the Tribal Council of the Quechan Tribe is still supportive of the Yuma East Wetlands project and that they are working through some issues on the land use agreement related to water rights. They have indicated that they should have the legal issues worked out within the next few months.

4. PROCESS UPDATES

John Swett indicated that the Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities Report for the 2013 – 2017 time period was being drafted. It was the intention to have the draft available for Steering Committee review by September.

5. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina reviewed upcoming meetings for the Steering Committee. There will be a Work Group Meeting May 9-10, a Steering Committee conference call on June 27, 2012, a Work Group meeting in September, 2012; and the next Steering Committee Meeting is October 24, 2012.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

Theresa Olson presented an update on the Salt Cedar Beetle. She indicated that they will be at Mormon Mesa this year. This site is 75% Salt Cedar and contains 25-30% of the nests for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. She noted that they are moving at approximately 10 miles per year. She indicated that she would have distribution maps for 2012 available for the October Steering Committee meeting.

7. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on six items.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 p.m.